

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8164

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 2275

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINTS, LA

SUBJECT: VISITS OF KEUKY LIM AND PRINCE SIHANOUK

1. IN THE COURSE OF A TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA THIS MORNING, I DREW ATTENTION TO THE INTERESTING CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF CAMBODIA SHOULD BE VISITING VIENTIANE AT THE SAME TIME AS PRINCE SIHANOUK IS VISITING SAM NEUA. I ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE RUMORS THAT PATHET LAO NEGOTIATOR PHOUN SIPRASEUTH WAS LEAVING TODAY FOR SM NEUA AND I INQUIRED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY RELATION BETWEEN THESE SEVERAL FACTS. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION I HAD SENT HIM REGARDING PRINCE SIHANOUK'S VISIT AND STATED THAT THERE WAS NO RELATION BETWEEN THESE EVENTS. THE DEPARTURE OF PHOUN WAS PURELY A QUESTION OF THE LATER'S HEALTH (HE APPARENTLY HAS A SERIOUS EYE IMFECTION WHICH HE PLANS TO HAVE TREATED IN HANOI).

2. TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TOWARD A SETTLEMENT OF THE WAR IN CAMBODIA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM HAD BROUGHT HIM WORD FROM PRESIDENT LON NOL THAT HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA'S ADVICE ON POSSIBLE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. SOUVANNA SAID HE HAD TOLD KEUKY LIM THAT IN HIS VIEW THE FIRST STEP MIGHT

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BE A VISIT TO CANTON BY PRINCE MONIRETH. SUCH A VISIT

COULD BE CARRIED OUT OSTENSIBLY AS A VISIT TO THE QUEEN
BUT WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERIOUS TALKS WITH
SIHANOUK. IN SOUVANNA'S OPINION MONIRETH IS A SENSIBLE

CAMBODIAN WHO COULD SERVE AS AN HONEST AND RELIABLE
LINK BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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